



FIND THE HERO INSIDE YOU!



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

ANNUAL REPORT | 2013



Our Mission

The mission of CASA of Denton County, Inc. is to provide trained community volunteers, to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children, and to promote community awareness about child abuse issues.

Adopted 08/22/2000.

TRUST AND COMMITMENT | for the Long Term

When Olivia's advocate joined CASA, she asked to work with teenagers. That in itself is unusual, since a majority of advocates prefer to work with babies or young children. Olivia came into Child Protective Services' (CPS) custody at age 14, due to severe physical abuse. Olivia's 10 year old brother was placed with his maternal grandmother but the grandmother would not take Olivia, nor would other relatives. According to her mother, Olivia began running away from home at age 12. She experimented with drugs and alcohol, became sexually active, got many tattoos and piercings and was very defiant. The counselors working with Olivia conveyed to the CASA advocate and the court that Olivia had a very contentious relationship with her mother. The CASA advocate found that Olivia's mother had been leaving her in charge of her younger brother while she went clubbing with her friends, sometimes bringing men home to spend the night. The mother was alcoholic and had a terrible temper, resulting in a very volatile living situation for the children.

Once in CPS custody, Olivia was placed in a shelter. Her CASA advocate visited often, but Olivia had learned not to trust adults as so many had consistently let her down. At one point, Olivia and another girl in the shelter ran away together, disappearing for over a month. When Olivia returned, she had cut her long hair, dyed it black and had even more piercings. The CASA advocate later learned from Olivia that she had heard her mother was working the court-ordered services and Olivia was afraid she might be forced to return to her mother's care; therefore she ran away. Eventually,

Olivia's mother relinquished her parental rights to Olivia. Since Olivia's father had not been involved in her life, his parental rights were terminated as well. Committed to Olivia and what was best for her future, the CASA advocate worked closely with Child Protective Services to find an appropriate adoptive family for Olivia.

While there have been rocky moments, the family is committed to Olivia, and she is showing signs of improvement. Recently, she asked her CASA advocate to take her to the shelter where she had stayed so she could apologize for running away and creating problems. The advocate can see that Olivia now trusts her. Although the case is near closure, the CASA advocate believes she will continue to hear from Olivia periodically. Because of the CASA volunteer's commitment to Olivia, this young woman now knows that she can trust others – she knows what it is like to have someone in her life who won't give up on her. Olivia's future remains to be seen, but one thing is for certain – she has the blessing of a CASA advocate and a loving, caring family in a safe home to call her own.

Olivia now knows what it is
like to have someone in her life,
someone who won't give up on her...
her CASA advocate is her HERO!



Hero

After all, the ordinary hero hiding in each of us is often the most powerful catalyst for change.

Tate Taylor

DEAR CASA FAMILY,

Court Appointed Special Advocates of Denton County celebrated 21 years of heroic service to abused and neglected children in 2013. We are fully aware that this is because of you — our heroes - CASA volunteers, CASA supporters, CASA peers in the local child welfare system.

One highlight in 2013 that helped our mission focused efforts include two successful signature fund raising events, the Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay Event in May and the Evening of Elegance Celebrity Waiter Event in October. Both had record numbers of attendees and raised record amounts totaling more than \$190,000 and 26% of the annual operating expenses. Other events and campaigns including CASA's direct mail solicitations, parking cars at the Denton Arts & Jazz Festival, the Cloud 9 Art Gala, Cloud 9 Fashion Show and the Kiwanis Club of Southern Denton County Tolltag Triathlon, together raised an additional \$35,000 in support of CASA's services to abused and neglected children.

Another highlight includes completion of the CASA Administration Office "renovation project." Started in December 2012, the agency moved completely into the newly renovated space in April 2013! Thanks to the generosity of Rees Jones Foundation, CoServ Charitable Foundation, Denton South Rotary Club, Rayzor Family Foundation, Dal-Tile, Custom Building Products and the estate of Maurine Pearson, the renovation project was completed in less than five months and will provide a much more efficient and inviting space for CASA for many years to come. Links Construction did a tremendous job making use of every inch and corner of space and we are simply thrilled with the outcome! You are invited to stop by anytime during office hours to get a tour of our new space!

One final and most important highlight is the children CASA served in 2013. You can see on the "Stats at a Glance" page that there are some good outcomes for the children served by CASA. What you can't see in the numbers is the simple importance of our work.

Work that CASA volunteer advocate heroes do every day for their CASA kids. Work such as advocating for a medical review for a child who has been unnecessarily placed on psychotropic medications. Work such as ensuring a child gets placed closer to the projector in her classroom and gets much needed glasses so she can succeed in school. Work such as celebrating a child's birthday for the first time in his life as he turns nine. Work such as listening to a child's story and sharing that important information with the court and other professionals in the case. Work such as locating a safe, permanent home for a sibling group of five.

Of the 566 children in the Denton County court system due to abuse or neglect, 451 had a dedicated CASA volunteer child advocate in 2013. That leaves 115 that still need a CASA hero! A former CASA advocate wrote this in a journal while going through training, "No one likes child abuse. Everyone is appalled at the stories we hear of children who have been abused, abandoned, neglected or mistreated. The difference between CASA's and everyone else is simple: CASA's do something about it."

Is there any better definition of a hero? I don't think so - the idea that any of us, in all of our normalcy, can make a difference and change a child's life, well, to me, that's heroism - everyday people, sometimes doing everyday things and sometimes doing extra ordinary things - changing the world of a child, one child at a time.

We know the work we do is important and life changing. We appreciate those of you who have "found the hero inside yourself" and are a part of our efforts. Your investment in CASA and the children we serve is critical and we thank you sincerely for making the investment! We hope and pray that others of you will join the CASA hero movement — a child needs you.

Sherri Gideon
Executive Director



Hero

A hero is somebody who voluntarily walks into the unknown.

Tom Hanks

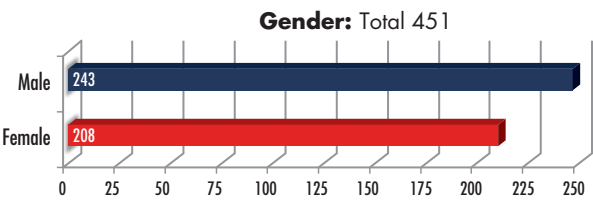
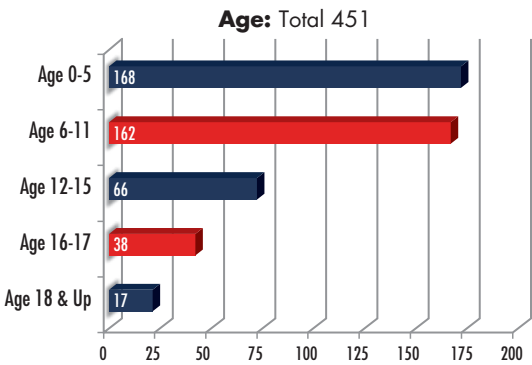
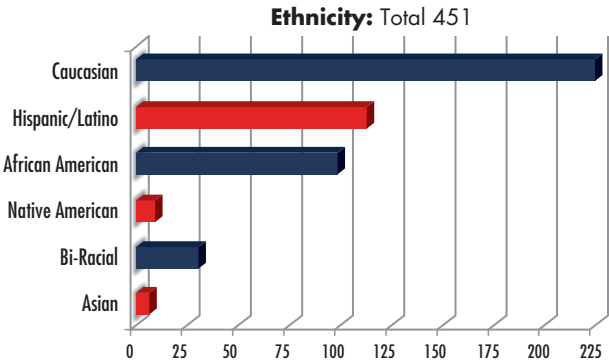
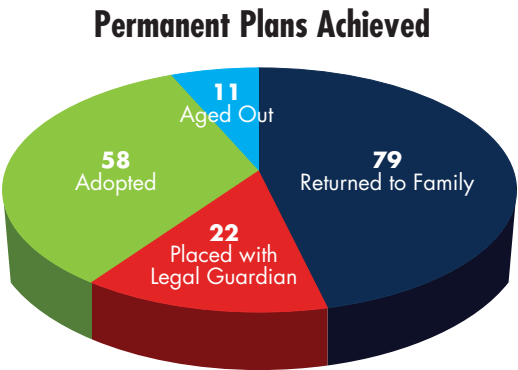
STATS AT A GLANCE | 2013

OUTCOMES

- 98% of CASA recommendations were accepted by Judges/Juries.
- 62% of children achieved permanency within 18 months of CASA's acceptance of the case.
- Less than 1% of children served by CASA entered the child welfare system for a second time within six months of case closure.

VOLUNTEERS

- Average length of time advocates stay with CASA of Denton County is 3 years or 36 months.





Hero

Aspire rather to be a hero than merely appear one.

Baltasar Gracian

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT | FY 2013

YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2013

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM?

Contributions	\$86,907
Fund Raising Events	\$213,957
United Ways	\$109,921
Federal Grants	\$73,389
State Grants	\$150,520
Local Government Grants	\$82,201
Corporate/Foundation/Org. Grants	\$16,200
Miscellaneous & Interest Income	\$3,615
In-Kind Contributions	\$19,185
Total Revenue	\$755,895

WHERE THE MONEY GOES?

Personnel Expenses	\$518,578
Occupancy Related, Phones & Repairs	\$39,157
Casework Travel & Conferences	\$32,954
Supplies	\$7,305
Printing, Postage & PR	\$17,578
Insurance	\$3,798
Contracts & Services	\$8,762
Dues & Subscriptions	\$2,821
Volunteer Related	\$16,415
Fund Raising Expenses	\$65,580
Miscellaneous	\$5,994
Depreciation	\$20,772
Care4Kids Expenditures	\$5,171

Total Expenses \$744,885

Net Income for 2013 \$11,010





Hero

True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.

Arthur Ashe

CASA VOLUNTEERS | 2013

- Acee, Nancy
- Agee, Judy
- Alyea, Sarah
- Atkins, Cara
- Atkins, Leslie
- Bacchus, Steve
- Bailey, Courtney
- Balvin, Kristen
- Barham, Carol
- Barker, Lauren
- Barker, Sarah
- Barron, Donna
- Bassinger, Carole
- Becker, Tish
- Bell, Kenneth
- Berry, Dixie
- Berry, Mike
- Berry, Scott
- Birdsong, Brooke
- Boomer, Lydia
- Brock, Cynthia
- Brock, Melinda
- Brown, Stephanie
- Brucia, Michael
- Buchanan, Larry
- Burk, Jean
- Burns, Rachael
- Calloway, Andrea
- Cameron, Scott
- Campbell, Jean
- Cannon, Cassidy
- Carmack, Cynthia
- Carrico, Myra
- Carson, Andra
- Cartright Family
- Castle, Shacarol
- Challenger, Jane
- Cicero, Dena
- Clark, Teri
- Coaxum, Tony
- Cole, Carol
- Coleman, Jannibah
- Collier, James
- Cooper, Lizzy
- Cooper, Melissa
- Croff, Ray
- Dane, Allison
- Darnell, Clarice
- Davis, Gary
- Davis, Jackie
- Dejesus, Erica
- Delbecq, Carol
- Delory, Angel
- Dulovics, Caryln Jo
- Ellis, Richard
- Ervin, Dorothy
- Evans, Colleen
- Faciane, Sandra
- Fahie, Shamaria
- Felderhoff, Brandi
- Finley, Ed
- Fiorenza, Debbie
- Flahaven, Kathi
- Fogarty, Judy
- Fogarty, Timothy
- Foster, Peggy
- Fraire, Daisy
- Francis, Sarah
- Friedland, Jean
- Fry, Eric
- Fry, Erica
- Fry, Levi
- Gamron, Tony
- Garrett, Brad
- Garrett, Emily
- Germansen-McCord, Tracy
- Gibson, Julie
- Gideon, Wes
- Gillis, Ashleigh
- Glegghorn, Susan
- Glenney, Kathleen
- Gordillo, Nicole
- Graifemberg, Michelle
- Gray, Sharonne
- Green, Gay
- Grigsby, Debby
- Grimes, Carol
- Grubbs, Stephanie
- Guerrero, Gilbert
- Hannah, Gina
- Harrison, Mary Ann
- Harwell, Jeri
- Haynie, Dana
- Heard, Makinzie
- Hechinger, John
- Hechinger, Sue
- Hendricks, Samantha
- Herwald, Hanna
- Hiatt, Elvina
- Hicks, Dawn
- Hill, Brent
- Hoenig, Jill
- Holley, Jordan
- Holley, Shana
- Hollon, Shirley
- Holloway, Alice
- Horn, Casey
- Hull, Morgan
- Hunter, Mary
- Hurst, Ronald
- Jensen, Brian
- Jensen, Hannah
- Jensen, Mika
- Jensen, Mikey
- Jones, Kyle
- Kelly, Tom
- Kerbow, Russell
- Klein, Hunter
- Klein, Jacob
- Kneeling, Harolene
- Koontz, Debra
- Krause, Kelly
- Krueger, Duane
- Krueger, Shelly
- Kunke, Laurie
- Kuzmich, Steve
- Langford, Carol
- Lasley, Joy
- Latham, Brenda
- Lawrence, Jeffery
- Lee, Ashley
- Lee, Chris
- Leon, Vince
- Levitan, Tina
- Mahavier, Stacy
- Mancino, Bob
- Mancino, Debbie
- Manning, Shannon
- Marcum, Rebecca
- Martin, Jerry
- Martinez, Sonia
- Martino, Brandon
- McAnally, Connie
- McClure, Michelle
- McCormick, Jamie
- McKeever, Tierra
- McKinnis, Danielle
- McLeod, Cliff
- McLeod, Janie
- McReynolds, Paula
- Means, Lynna
- Means, Nick
- Medlock, Ashley
- Meilinger, Laura
- Mielke, Vicki
- Miller, Michelle
- Mimlitch, Mary Jo
- Mires, Georgeanne
- Mitchell, Melisa
- Moore, Kay T.
- Moran, Michael
- Morris, Debbie
- Muench, Kimberly
- Murrell, Karen
- Nguyen, Maria
- Noel, Yvette
- North, Bonnie
- Odom, Ali
- O'Haugherty, David
- Olsen, Bonnie
- O'Neil, Kristine
- Palmer, Terra
- Patlan, Julie
- Patrick, Sarah
- Pena, Adrian
- Pettit, Cecilia
- Petty, Paula
- Pittman, Floyd
- Pogue, Sarah
- Pomposelli, Jerry
- Pringle, Autumn
- Prock, Debbie
- Proctor, Mike
- Rademacher, Joyce
- Raines, Marcia
- Rathbun, Nita
- Redfearn, Megan
- Redrick, Shapae
- Reiff, Julie
- Rice, Kathy
- Richardson, Linda
- Roberts, Denise
- Robertson, Tracee
- Robinson, Aimee
- Rodriguez, Milton
- Roennau, Lindsey
- Rosenbaum, Nicole
- Schroeder, Kay
- Schwirtz, Lynn
- Seright, Dawn
- Sherman, Nacasta
- Shewmake, Paula
- Shields, Gail
- Shorter, Sharon
- Simmons, Carrell Ann
- Skelton, Brian
- Smith, Sue
- Sonnier, Corinne
- St. Pierre, Mark
- Stark, Lauren
- Stephens, Donna
- Studer, Greg
- Sullivan, Ellen
- Sutphin, Rena
- Sweeten, Brenda
- Taylor, Sara
- Thaggard, Kimberly
- Thaggard, Weston
- Thomas, Linda
- Thompson, Traci
- Trent, Mike
- Trimble, Mike
- Turner, Jessica
- Ulrich, Vicki
- UNT Omega Delta Phi, Members of
- UNT PUSH Organization, Members of
- Vail-Goodnight, Melinda
- Van Patten, Kimberly
- Wagner, Mark
- Wagner, Paula
- Wallace, Amy
- Walsh, Peg
- Walsworth, Cindy
- Watson, Ashton
- Weidner, Shirley
- Whelan, Andrea
- Willcox, Barbara
- Willner, Bill
- Willner, Isabel
- Willner, Matthew
- Wing, Lazetta
- Wood, Misty
- Wood, Tyler
- Yao, Alex
- Youh, Wani
- Young, Robert
- Zitney, Madison



Hero

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Christopher Reeve

DON AND CAROLE WOMACK | A Donor Story

On April 1, 2013, CASA presented long-time supporters Don and Carole Womack with the 2013 Maurine Pearson Benefactor of the Year Award at the 15th Annual CASA Recognition Dinner. With a heart and passion for children, Don and Carole have been supporting CASA since 2001 when they attended the first CASA Pulling for Kids Sporting Clay event. Don's team shot and Carole and the other wives walked the entire course with their team - cheering them on along the way. And then, Don and his team came back year after year and eventually, Don and Carole extended their support beyond just that event to become major supporters of CASA and the children we serve.

The most beautiful thing about the Womacks is their quiet commitment. They are not "flashy" about their support, not looking for kudos or awards – they just truly care about children and through their generosity, make a big difference for the children served by CASA. When thinking about the "hero" theme for CASA, one immediately thinks of Don and Carole, and this quote said by Albert Einstein, *"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."* Through their generosity, Don and Carole have continuously reminded us all that "doing nothing" is not an option. You can change a child's life through CASA – through your quiet support or through fierce advocacy – but however you do it, doing nothing is not an option. CASA is grateful to Don and Carole for their tremendous, quiet and critical commitment to children in need.

Named for CASA benefactor Maurine Pearson, the Benefactor Award is given to honor a person, company or funding source who has given a significant contribution to CASA of Denton County in the previous year. On top of annual support for CASA, Maurine gave the ultimate gift to the agency by leaving part of her estate to benefit the children served by CASA at the time of her passing. CASA works to ensure her legacy lives on with this award. Past recipients of the benefactor award include Bob and Jean Collier, the Denton Benefit League, Cloud 9 Charities, the Meadows Foundation, the Verizon Foundation, Jostens, the Johnson Family Foundation, Medical Center of Lewisville, Kuzmich Law Firm, and Shelton Development.





Hero

Too many children in foster care are falling through cracks. Be a hero, take the time to learn about adoption today.

Bruce Willis

CASA DONORS | FY 2013

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CASA DONORS | FY 2013

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- Gary Taylor
- William and Sherrill Taylor
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- University of North Texas
- UNT PUSH Organization
- Lynda Uphouse
- Tammy Vargas
- Nishendu and Bela Vasavada
- Michael Verlardi
- Mo Vestigo
- Victory Management Services, LLC
- Video Logic Productions
- Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Market
- Mark and Paula Wagner
- Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6068
- Peg Walsh
- Chris Washam
- Michelle Webb
- Shirley Weidner
- George Wendt
- Westway Ford
- Betty White
- Mr. and Mrs. Don White
- Carol Wickstrom
- Barbara Willcox
- Ed Williams
- Joseph Williams
- Bill and Lara Willner
- Charles Wills
- Dorothy Wills
- Ellis Wills, Jr.
- John Wills
- Billy Wilson
- Don and Carole Womack
- Terry Wood
- Wood, Thacker & Weatherly, P.C.
- Kathleen Woods
- Lee and Carmen Worley
- Roger Yale
- Chavel and Teresa Yzaguirre
- Laura Zimmer

Thanks for
being a Hero



Hero

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

Joseph Campbell

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CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

DENTON COUNTY

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CASA is a member agency of the
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Texas CASA, Inc. and the
United Ways of Denton County
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Thanks for
**FINDING THE
HERO
INSIDE YOU!**



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